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LISKEARD
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



THE
ANNUAL REPORT

of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the Year
1970

P. J. FOX, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

RURAL DISTRICT OF LISKEARD
T H E A N N U A L R E P O R T
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council of Liskeard.


Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

During the year under review the population of No.7 Health Area as estimated on 30th June, 1970 was 53,400. This was an increase of 640 over the total for the corresponding date in 1969. By far the largest part of this growth occurred in the Borough of Saltash where the increase was 480. Smaller increases took place in St. Germans Rural District, Torpoint Urban District and the Borough of Liskeard. In the Liskeard Rural District and Looe Urban District there were small reductions in population.

Live births fell from last years total of 810 to 769, giving a corrected birth rate of 17.7 per 1,000 of population, some 1.7 per 1,000 above the rate for England and Wales. The rates for still births and for deaths of infants under one year of age were marginally lower than the national rates. Illegitimate births totalled 45 and represented 5.9% of all births, the lowest rate recorded since 1966. Complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium did not cause any deaths of mothers during 1970.

Deaths totalled 768, an increase of 34 over the figure for 1969. The corrected death rate of 12.0 per 1,000 of population was slightly above the national rate of 11.7. Heart disease which caused 40% of all deaths was again the most prevalent cause of death. Various types of cancer caused 20% of all deaths, and strokes were responsible for a further 14%. Of the defined forms of cancer causing death, those affecting the intestine were most numerous, closely followed by cancers of the windpipe and lung, and those involving the stomach. Since in the female the breast is a much more highly developed gland than it is in the male, cancers of this organ are for all practical purposes confined to the female half of the population. From this point of view the impact of breast cancer as a cause of death on the female section of the population is heavier than appears from a cursory glance at the figures of death attributed to this cause. In 1970 there were 16 deaths from this cause, all of them females. Looked at in terms of a rate per 1,000 of the vulnerable female population it advances breast cancer to the unenviable position of being almost as lethal for women as cancer of the lung is for men.

The incidence of notifiable disease was quite low during 1970, when a total of 80 cases was notified. The principal factor contributing to this reduction is the fall in the prevalence of measles which has resulted from the development some few years ago of a new vaccine against this disease. Under the present schedule of protective immunisations this vaccine is now given to children during the second year of life and if parents are co-operative in having their children protected we can fairly confidently hope that measles will largely disappear in the same way that diphtheria, whooping-cough, poliomyelitis, and tuberculosis have done. German measles is normally the cause of a trivial illness, so mild in its effect that it is often not recognised as such. For these reasons it has not been included in the list of infectious diseases which must be notified.



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There is however one serious effect of this disease. If a woman who is pregnant, and in particular in the first three months of her pregnancy, contracts German measles there is a distinct risk that she will give birth to a child suffering from a variety of physical and mental defects. A vaccine which gives immunity against the German measles virus was made available during 1970, and it was decided that it would be used mainly to give immunity to young females at the beginning of their reproductive life. Vaccination was offered to girls in their 14th year, and by the end of 1970 a total of 309 girls in the Health Area had received this form of protection.

The number of new cases of tuberculosis notified during 1970 was 8. The incidence was equally divided between males and females, and the total of cases notified was the lowest recorded since I started to accept notifications in 1948. One death of an elderly male aged over 75 years was attributed to the late effects of tuberculosis. Of the 8 new cases notified 5 were persons aged 45 years or more, and of these 4 were aged 65 years and over. This fits in with the pattern of tuberculous infection which has prevailed for some years in which the main impact of this infection falls on persons in middle age and old age. Up to twenty years ago tuberculosis posed a serious, and frequently a lethal threat to young adults, adolescents and children. Today cases are seldom seen amongst these age groups. Much of the credit for this must go to an improvement in general standards of living, and to the protective effects of B.C.G. vaccine against tuberculosis which since 1954 has been given to children in secondary schools. During 1970 the number of children in the Health Area who were given B.C.G. vaccination was 585.

In the general preface to my Annual Report for 1969 I referred at some length to the increasing burden of pollution which human beings are inflicting on the environment they share with the variety of biological systems which co-exist with them on the earth. From the welter of discussion, argument, protest, precept and prophecy surrounding this subject one fact emerges with ever increasing clarity. It is that man is the real and ultimate source of practically all pollution arising from his power to reproduce at such a rate that it is increasingly beyond the scope of the natural regulators to hold down growth of population. Since to modern man the idea of calling in such regulators as disease, famine or warfare to control and curb population growth is an unacceptable concept, then logically he must seriously dedicate himself to the alternative by promoting, and supporting in all possible ways policies of population control. Because of limited living space, and the need to bring in large quantities of food and raw materials to sustain modern living standards, the problem of over population is nowhere more urgent than in England and Wales, and there is already clear evidence that in certain parts of the country sheer weight of numbers has eroded the quality of life in those localities. This problem if not tackled resolutely and energetically now, may in the not very distant future call for harsh and unpopular measures which will almost certainly impinge on the liberty of the individual.

I would not wish to close this general preface without putting on record my gratitude to Members and Officers of the six County District Councils I serve for the support and understanding they have given me during 1970.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen

Your obedient Servant,

P. J. FOX

, Medical Officer of Health.

RURAL DISTRICT OF LISKEARD

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Councillor K.J. Trewin
Councillor F.L. Mitchell

Chairman
Vice-Chairman

HOUSING COMMITTEE

Councillor H.G. Preston
Councillor F.G. Saunders

Chairman
Vice-Chairman

HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

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Mr. G.M. Lawry, A.I.A.S., A.I.H.M., M.A.P.H.I., Mun.B.I.,
Chief Public Health Inspector, Surveyor and Housing Manager.

Mr. C. Rayner,
Additional Public Health Inspector.

Mr. G.O. Cowling,
Assistant Surveyor.

Council Offices,
Luxstowe House,
Liskeard.

Telephone: Liskeard 42379

Area of Rural District	104,803 acres
Population	13,720
Number of Inhabited Houses at 1.4.70.	5,607
Rateable Value at 31.12.70.	£342,122
Product of the Penny Rate for year ended 31.3.70:	£1,299. 8s. 7d.

Vital Statistics for 1970

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Live Births:	<u>100</u>	<u>97</u>	<u>197</u>
	<u>Liskeard R.D. Health Area No. 7 England & Wales</u>		
Birth rate per 1,000 of population:	17.3	17.7	16.0
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Still Births	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
	<u>Liskeard R.D. Health Area No. 7 England & Wales</u>		
Still birth rate per 1,000 total births:	10.0	12.9	13.0

Vital Statistics for 1970 (Continued)

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths:	<u>107</u>	<u>85</u>	<u>192</u>
	<u>Liskeard R.D. Health Area No. 7 England & Wales</u>		
Death rate per 1,000 of population:	11.9	12.0	11.7
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths of infants under one year of age:	1	2	3
	<u>Liskeard R.D. Health Area No. 7 England & Wales</u>		
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births:	15.0	16.9	18.0

Principal Causes of Death at All Ages

Heart disease:	84
Cancer (all sites):	43
Stroke:	22
Respiratory disease:	19
Accidents:	5

There was an insignificant excess of live births over deaths. Of the 197 live births 12 were illegitimate births i.e. 6.1% of the total which is close to the figure of 5.9% for the Health Area.

There was a slight reduction in the number of deaths caused by cancer as compared with the year preceding. Of the defined forms of cancer that affecting the lung/bronchus was most prevalent as a cause of death and was responsible for 7 deaths.

Of those who died during the year 45% had reached or exceeded the age of 75 years at the time of death.

The incidence of this group of diseases was light during 1970 when the total number of cases notified was 27. Of this total 20 were cases of measles. Of the more serious types of disease one case of leptospirosis occurred. In 1969 the one case of this disease which occurred had a fatal outcome, but the 67 year old man affected in October 1970 fortunately made a good recovery. The four cases of food poisoning notified involved members of a farming family and was associated with a similar infection involving calves and cows on the farm. It is not clear where the bovines contracted this *Salmonella typhimurium* infection which was subsequently passed on to the four human beings working with them.

The following are details of cases and case rates during 1970:-

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Cases</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 of population</u>	
		<u>Liskeard R.D.</u>	<u>Health Area No. 7</u>
Measles	20	1.46	0.84
Food poisoning	4	0.29	0.09
Whooping cough	2	0.15	0.06
Leptospirosis	1	0.07	0.02

Tuberculosis

One case only of this disease was notified during 1970. It was a respiratory infection involving a 66 year old man. No deaths were attributed to this disease.

At the end of the year there were 18 known cases of respiratory tuberculosis and 6 known cases of other forms of tuberculosis resident in the Rural District.

National Assistance Act, 1948

Although action under Section 47 of this Act was not taken it was found necessary to act in two instances under the provisions of the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951, to secure care and attention urgently for two elderly females.

On 27th February, 1970, I was asked by a General Practitioner to see a 93 year old woman who lived alone. She was in need of urgent admission to hospital but steadfastly refused to go there for treatment. I called a Justice of the Peace to see her and he made the necessary Order for her removal to hospital. Under arrangements made by relatives she was subsequently transferred to a nursing home in West Cornwall where her closest relatives lived and could conveniently visit her.

On the 3rd March, 1970, a District Nurse drew to my attention a 72 year old woman who in addition to living alone in insanitary circumstances appeared to be suffering from an acute illness. As she was inaccessible to reasoning by myself and later by the Justice of the Peace whom I asked to see her that she should be admitted to hospital for care and treatment, the Justice made the necessary Order for her removal to the Plymouth General Hospital. Some 40 hours after her admission to hospital she died of broncho-pneumonia.

Water Supply

The great majority of dwellings in the Rural District received an adequate supply of wholesome water from the mains of the East Cornwall Water Board.

Such private supplies as were in use were sampled for bacteriological quality and where indicated appropriate advice was given to consumers of water from these supplies.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Due to national restrictions on capital expenditure progress in providing new schemes was slow. Nevertheless work was started on two new schemes to serve the hamlets of Trevelmond and Henwood.

Food

In general satisfactory standards of food hygiene were maintained in catering establishments and food shops during the year.

I have already referred to the four cases of food poisoning which affected members of a farming family and which they appear to have contracted from cattle on the farm. In this instance there was no danger to the general public as, at the time in question, the farm was not providing accommodation and meals for holidaymakers.

Factories Act, 1961

No difficulties in the operation of this Act were encountered during 1970.

Report of Chief Public Health Inspector

This report by Mr. G.M. Lawry follows. I am pleased to be able to place on record once again my gratitude to Mr. Lawry, Mr. Rayner and Mr. Cowling for the help they have given me during the year.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR 1970

Water Supply

The water supply serving practically the whole of the Rural District is obtained from the River Fowey, from which it is conveyed by gravity to treatment works operated by the East Cornwall Water Board at St. Cleer. From St. Cleer the water is conveyed through a network of trunk mains throughout the Rural District. The Villages which are not supplied from these works are Warleggan, Mount and St. Neot and these obtain a supply from local springs which are also under the control of the Water Board.

(1) Quality

No complaints were received during the year regarding the quality of the water supplied by the East Cornwall Water Board and this is to be expected as the supply is of a high standard in respect of both quality and quantity. Regular samples of water are taken by the Board's Staff and subjected to both chemical analysis and bacteriological examination. Daily samples of raw and settled water are taken to ensure that a pH value of 7.0 is maintained. In addition, checks are made for the presence of fluoride at six monthly intervals and no report has been received that any was detected.

During 1970 35 samples of water have been taken by my Department and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination. These have been taken on request by persons who have a private supply and are mainly from farm houses and isolated cottages. Whenever samples are taken the source of the supply is always inspected, as invariably it is found that improved protection works are necessary at that point. It is found that the standard of these supplies vary considerably. A good sample can be obtained, but if the same supply is sampled at another date it often shows a different result. I find it difficult to convince the public that untreated water is always suspect and the only satisfactory way to judge a supply is to build up a record of samples taken over a wide period of time.

The details of samples which have been taken during 1970 are given below:-

Broadoak

Tithe Hall Farm. Spring. 2 samples (Unsatisfactory)

Lansallos

Kites Nest, Lansallos. (Unsatisfactory)

Liskeard

East Folley, Doublebois. Tap. (Satisfactory)

Great Gormellick, Liskeard. Reservoir. (Satisfactory)

Nos. 1 - 4 Boduel, Liskeard. Borehole. (Satisfactory)

Menheniot

Cartuther Mill, Menheniot. Reservoir. (Unsatisfactory)

Cartuther Mill, Menheniot. Well. (Unsatisfactory)

Nettles Tenement, Trethawle. Domestic tap. (Unsatisfactory)

Tregondale, Menheniot. Pump. (Unsatisfactory)

Trethawle, Menheniot. Tap. (Satisfactory)

Trethawle, Menheniot. Reservoir. (Satisfactory)

Morval

Colvase Cottage, Widegates. Domestic tap. (Unsatisfactory)

Colvase Farm, Widegates. Reservoir. 2 samples. (Unsatisfactory)

Coombe Farm, Widegates. Reservoir. 2 samples. (Unsatisfactory)

South Hill

Penwarden, Golberdon. Land spring. (Satisfactory)
Trevigro, South Hill. Reservoir. 2 samples. (Unsatisfactory)
Woodcockwell, South Hill. Land spring. 3 samples. (Satisfactory)

St. Neot

Furswain Cottage, Harrowbridge. Springs. 3 samples. (Unsatisfactory)
Ashford Mill, St. Neot. Reservoir. (Unsatisfactory)
Higher Harrowbridge, St. Neot. Land springs. Reservoir. (Satisfactory)
Carnglaze, St. Neot. Well. (Satisfactory)
Outer Milltown, St. Neot. Borehole. (Satisfactory)
Halfway Inn, St. Neot. Well. (Unsatisfactory)
Netherton Farm, Draynes, St. Neot. (Unsatisfactory)

St. Pinnock

Gelly, East Taphouse. Reservoir. 2 samples. (Unsatisfactory)

St. Winnow

Trevego Farm, St. Winnow. (Satisfactory)

(2) Quantity

There is no shortage of water to those premises which are connected to the mains of the East Cornwall Water Board. In this respect the district is very fortunate as the Regulating Dam built by the Board ensures that supply will satisfy demands up to the year 2000.

During 1970 no steps were taken to carry out the fluoridation of water supply by the East Cornwall Water Board.

In view of the fact that the water from the East Cornwall Water Board is neutral, when it leaves the Treatment Works, there is no chance of corrosion of metal pipes used to convey it. With regard to private sources of supply, these are nearly always very acid in nature, but with the now common practice of using plastic pipes and storage tanks there is no problem with corrosion. No lead piping has been installed for many years.

Number of dwellings and population supplied from public mains

Parish	Population of Parish	Population where water is supplied to houses	No. of houses supplied	Population supplied by standpipes	No. of houses
Boconnoc	160	90	30	Nil	-
Broad oak	185	100	33	Nil	-
Duloe	557	494	144	Nil	-
Lanreath	350	239	76	Nil	-
Lansallos	1437	1449	477	Nil	-
Lanteglos	1105	1085	361	Nil	-
Linkinhorne	1082	746	247	Nil	-
Liskeard	1080	767	248	Nil	-
Menheniot	1112	910	307	Nil	-
Morval	497	157	51	Nil	-
Pelynt	622	518	170	Nil	-
South Hill	375	171	59	Nil	-
St. Cleer	1569	1366	452	Nil	-
St. Ive	1305	1124	382	Nil	-
St. Keyne	187	104	35	Nil	-
St. Martin	438	233	74	Nil	-
St. Neot	805	349	115	Nil	-
St. Pinnock	342	111	38	Nil	-
St. Veep	330	234	75	Nil	-
St. Winnow	385	88	30	Nil	-
Warleggan	153	109	35	Nil	-

Sewerage

During 1970 the Council was able to re-commence sewerage schemes and tenders were obtained for the villages of Henwood and Trevelmond and work commenced there. From a public health point of view the village of Trevelmond has caused concern, since piped water was brought there in the late 1950's, as septic tanks in the village will not operate satisfactorily and several nuisances were constantly re-occurring.

With regard to the village of Polperro, the Consulting Engineers reported that it was necessary to enlarge the length of sewer through the harbour out to the sea outfall. By doing this the proposed development in the Killigarth area could then be brought into the Polperro system and the danger of overloading of the existing village sewers would be mitigated. Tenders were obtained for this and the work commenced late in the year. The second stage of the Polperro improvements will be the installation of a mutrator at the sea outfall and the Council are committed to carry on with this when the first stage is completed.

The other village which, from the drainage aspect, creates public health nuisances is the village of Golberdon. In this case there are several cottages, which do not have adequate gardens to install septic tanks or for that matter to dispose of the contents of bucket closets or sullage water. It is very distressing to have to tell the residents of Golberdon, year after year, that nothing positive is being done for them. The Council is being held up because of financial restrictions, which are imposed upon it, and over which it has no control.

In a similar vein I would comment on the position of Lerryn, where crude sewage continues to be deposited through various sewer outfalls, some of which are close to the banks and which are exposed when the tide is out. Here is another case where the Council is being criticised for the delay in providing sewerage, but which again has been held up by national financial policies.

In addition to the schemes mentioned, the Council has a considerable programme for the enlargement of existing works to cope with the ever growing demand of residential development in the various villages throughout its area.

Public Conveniences

During 1970 it was decided that there was a need for a new large central public convenience in the village of Polperro particularly for Ladies, where a full time female cleaner could be employed. The possibility of obtaining various sites was investigated, but objections were received in respect of all those considered and by the end of the year no suitable site was available. The Council, however, did employ a woman cleaner for the Summer months to clean the Ladies sections of the existing toilets.

The National Trust set up a public car park at Lantivet Bay, Lanteglos, and the Council agreed to provide a convenience there during 1971.

Without doubt more damage was caused to public conveniences throughout the rural district in 1970 than ever before. It is a sad reflection that a section of the community appear to obtain satisfaction from destroying amenities, which are provided for the use of the public.

Most villages in the rural district now have a public convenience and even in inland villages they are considerably used.

Public Health Nuisances

Less complaints were received during 1970 from residents in the rural district, who live in the proximity of intensive agricultural units. Those complaints which were received came during times when liquid manure was being spread on fields adjacent to the villages. This creates a very vile smell

/and is

Public Health Nuisances (Continued)

and is something which I feel villagers should not have to tolerate.

At a time when many of my colleagues throughout the country have to deal with complaints of noise nuisances, it is gratifying to know that in this district we do not yet have to deal with this problem to any appreciable extent.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

We experienced during 1970 a considerable increase in unauthorised dumps, occurring in various open spaces in the district. In addition to car bodies, a considerable amount of builders rubble and household hard refuse finds itself on to many beauty spots. The Council is active in administering the Civic Amenities Act and many old cars have been removed and dumps have been cleaned up. In some cases the owners of abandoned cars have been traced and where this has been done they have had to move them. In the majority of cases, however, the dumps have had to be cleared by the Council and this has added to an already overloaded refuse collection service. In order to try to deter householders from dumping indiscriminately the Council decided to consider setting up a service for the collection of hard refuse during 1971.

I reported in 1969 that the Council started a system of supplying standard dustbins to occupiers of premises. Advantage has continued to be taken of this service and in 1970 a further 155 bins were issued. On refuse collection days in the villages it is now unusual to see the unsatisfactory containers that were so common only two years ago.

Refuse continued to be dumped at the Cannon Bridge central tip where all the conditions of controlled tipping are religiously adhered to. We have received much credit for the system operated there and it is therefore somewhat disheartening that some trouble has been experienced with pollution of the stream running through the valley. It is to be hoped that, as the lower layers of refuse become inert, much of this pollution will clear itself.

The tip at Polperro continued in use during 1970, but as I reported previously its life is coming to an end and the refuse from this village will have to be taken to Cannon Bridge.

It was decided during the year to replace the 8 cu. yd. side loader with a new 25 cu. yd. compression type rear loader and provision will be made for the purchase of this in 1971.

Rodent Control

Of the public health services operated by local authorities that of Rodent Control does not in my view receive the publicity it should. In this area two cases of Leptospirosis Jaundice recently occurred and this illustrated the dangers of rat infestation particularly on farms. With a full time rodent operator the Council is now able to offer a comprehensive treatment service to farms and other premises and also to carry out a survey of the district to see if rat infestation is occurring without adequate treatment or rat proofing of premises being carried out. The enforcement duties given to local authorities under the Prevention of Damage by Pest Act 1949 is as important as any duties vested in District Councils.

With controlled tipping being carried out on the Council's refuse dump no rat infestation occurs there and a reservoir of rat infestation which is so common in many areas has been removed in this district.

Rodent Control (Continued)

Details of work carried out during the year is as follows:-

	<u>Non-Agricultural</u>	<u>Agricultural</u>
(a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification.	198	50
(b) Number infested: (i) Rats	147	50
(ii) Mice	51	-
(c) Total number of properties inspected for rats and for mice for reasons other than notification.	500	93
(d) Number infested: (i) Rats	148	25
(ii) Mice	15	-

Re-conditioning and Modernisation of Existing Houses

The following details give information of the number of Discretionary and Standard Grant schemes and the number paid during 1970:-

DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

Conversions

Applications received	4
Owner/Occupier	-
Other	4
Amount of Grant approved	£3,318
Grants paid - No. of dwellings	4
Amount paid	£1,306

Improvements

Applications received	9
Owner/Occupier	7
Other	2
Amount of Grant approved	£6,972
Grants paid - No. of dwellings	8
Amount paid	£5,318

STANDARD GRANTS

Applications received	39
Application approved - Owner/Occupier - Normal Limit	10
Higher Limit	13
Other - Normal Limit	5
Higher Limit	11
Housing Associations	-
Grants paid - No. of dwellings	41
Amount paid	£6,427

Re-conditioning and Modernisation of Existing Houses (Continued)

STANDARD GRANTS (Continued)

Amenities provided - Fixed baths or showers	..	..	..	..	37
Wash basins	..	..	..	..	39
Hot water supplies	..	..	..	..	38
Water Closets	..	..	..	..	32
Sinks	..	..	..	..	15
Grants paid above but including higher limit - No. of dwellings					16
Additional work - Bathrooms added	..	..	..	..	6
Piped water supplies	..	..	..	..	0
Septic tanks	..	..	..	..	11

Twenty years of active house improvement in Liskeard Rural District is now beginning to pay dividends. The properties in the villages in this district are now showing a scene of good maintenance and with a new life that the provision of amenities has given them. In addition to improving the dwellings internally the policy of the active administration of improvement grants has resulted in preserving so many dwellings, which if demolished would have destroyed the very character of the villages themselves.

The Council has continued with the working of the Housing Act 1969 in the same spirit that it started as far back as 1949 when the Housing Act of that year introduced the Discretionary Improvement Grant system. The power now to give help with certain repairs, such as the renewal of roofs, along with improvements has proved very useful.

The Council continued its policy of purchasing and modernising dwellings which owners were not prepared to do themselves. In 1970 nine cottages were purchased and were improved. The dwellings after improvement were placed on the Council's Housing stock for normal lettings.

Slum Clearance

With the ever increasing value of even derelict cottages in the rural district, slum clearance procedure, which regularly was being used up to about six years ago, has now come to a halt. Whenever any of these unfit dwellings become vacant they are being purchased and re-conditioning schemes are submitted before any action can be taken. In many cases the cost of ~~re-conditioning~~ is in my view uneconomic but such is the demand for rural dwellings that people are prepared to do just about anything to retain them.

The action taken in 1970 is as follows:-

Unfit houses made fit	56
Unfit houses closed	-
Persons displaced	-
Families displaced	-
Number of houses demolished	-

Swimming Pools

At the time of writing this report, six swimming pools are in operation in the district mainly on Camping Sites. These all have automatic filtration and chlorination installed. In each case samples are taken for bacteriological examination and a check is made on the residual chlorine content.

Camping and Caravan Sites

In conjunction with the Cornwall County Council efforts were made to find a suitable site in the area for the establishment of a permanent gypsy camp as required by the Caravan Act 1968. There is land at Fore Down, Pensilva, which has been used by nomadic families for many years and it was felt that a new site should be established somewhere in that vicinity and accordingly land near the existing camp was recommended to the County Council for further examination. By suitable screening and by the provision of the basic amenities a site could be established, which should not be detrimental to the amenities of the area.

During the year under review, the Cornwall County Council brought into operation an Article 4 Direction under the Town and Country Planning Act, which takes away the right to use land for camping in the coastal belt of the rural district for twenty-eight days without planning permission. It is to be hoped that this will help to control indiscriminate camping and to prevent the public health problems this has created in the past.

Additional planning permissions were granted during the year to cater for the growing demand for caravan/camping sites and the position regarding the number of sites in the rural district is as follows:-

- 26 Residential sites with licences for 50 caravans
- 23 sites with licences for 872 holiday caravans
- 11 sites with licences for 619 motorised caravans and tents
- 3 sites with licences for 250 tents

The inspection of these sites is an important aspect of public health work especially when one considers that there are individual sites accommodating 1,000 people, which is equal to the static population of the largest villages in the district.

Food

(1) Slaughterhouses

There are no slaughterhouses in the Rural District and the meat consumed continued to be obtained from the Abattoir of the Fat Stock Marketing Corporation, which is situated within the Borough of Liskeard. The latter authority employ a full time Meat Inspector and therefore a comprehensive meat inspection service is carried out. An inspection is made of meat on display in butcher's shops and in refrigerators when visits are made under the Food Hygiene Regulations.

(2) Food Hygiene Regulations 1960

The standard of food premises generally continued to be satisfactory but on routine inspections various matters have to be drawn to the attention of traders.

Most of the village shops now have deep freeze cabinets and many shop keepers still do not appreciate the need to rotate stock and to carry out frequent de-frosting of cabinets.

Originally one associated the super-markets with towns, but now the idea of mini-super-markets is coming to the villages and shops are being changed to self-service. In the main this has improved the shops and with improved shelving arrangements and more open space it is easier to clean the floors and the walls.

The Camping Sites all have their restaurants and Polperro continues to attract a large number of visitors who use the numerous cafes in that village. It is gratifying to be able to report that no outbreaks of food poisoning were reported, which were associated with "eating out" in the district. The regular inspection of the kitchens is the only way of ensuring that a reasonable standard is being maintained.

(2) Food Hygiene Regulations 1960 (Continued)

During the year the Food Hygiene Regulations 1970 were introduced. It will become an offence to keep animal feed, i.e. pet food, in a room unless it is packed in a sealed can or other container that prevents the risk of contamination. This is to be welcomed as I have already noticed a tendency for pet food to be sold in general stores. As far as this district is concerned Regulation 33 is of particular interest in that it makes the packing or storage of eggs, fruit or vegetables on farm premises subject to a number of requirements of the Regulations.

The number and types of premises in the district is as follows:-

	<u>No.</u>	<u>No. fitted to comply with Reg. 16</u>	<u>No. of Premises where Reg. 19 applies</u>	<u>No. of Premises fitted to comply with Reg. 19</u>
Grocers' Shops	64	64	30	30
Confectionery	6	5	-	-
Licensed Premises	35	35	35	35
Cafes and Restaurants	44	44	44	44
Butchers	15	15	15	15
Hotels and Guest Houses	27	27	27	27
Bakehouses	2	2	2	2
Greengrocers	1	1	-	-
Clubs	6	6	6	6
Food Factory	1	1	1	1
Bulk Food Store	1	1	-	-

(3) Market Stalls and Delivery Vehicle Regulations, 1966

It is known that twelve Grocers, fourteen Butchers and three wet fish vendors are operating delivery vehicles in the district. Those inspected were found to be satisfactory, but in a large area such as this one wonders how many others are trading without our knowledge.

(4) Examination of Food

Inspection of food is carried out during routine visits to food shops and on requests from retailers. During the year under review the following foodstuffs were condemned as being unfit for human consumption:-

57 tins of fruit	3 tins of rice
2 tins of Corned Beef	1 tin of Chicken Capri
1 tin of minced beef with onion	2 tins of beef steaks
1 tin of chopped ham and pork	8 tins of Pilchards
10 lb. tin of pork shoulder	1 tin of Salmon
1 tin of soup	1 tin of runner beans
2 tins of sliced beans	5 tins of Broad beans
3 tins of peas	7 tins of tomatoes
2 tins of Asparagus	13 tins of Baked beans
1 tin of whole Kernel corn	5 tins of Orange juice
2 tins of Pepsi	

(5) Milk and Dairies

There are five registered dairies in the Rural District but no bottling of milk takes place in any of these.

During the year eight samples of cream were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination and for the detection of Brucellosis. In all cases there was a negative result of Brucella culture.

(5) Milk and Dairies (Continued)

In addition eighteen samples of Yogurt were taken and these all proved to be satisfactory.

During 1970 the Cornwall County Council took twenty-three samples of pasteurised milk, one sample of sterilised milk and one sample of untreated milk. In all cases the results were satisfactory.

(6) Ice Cream

During 1970, fifty-seven samples of ice cream and two samples of ice lollies were taken and were graded as follows:-

	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
ice cream	44	2	6	5
ice lollies	2			

In the case of the samples which were in Grade 4, samples were then taken of the water in the jugs in which the ice cream servers were kept. In each case the water was found to be grossly polluted. It is fairly obvious that when loose ice cream is served unless the water in which the servers are kept is changed frequently and the correct amount of steriliser is used, then poor sample results are likely.

(7) Egg Pasteurisation Plants

There are no Egg Pasteurisation Plants in the Rural District.

(8) Poultry Inspection

There are no known poultry processing premises in the Rural District, but whenever routine visits are made to butcher's shops, etc., the inspection of poultry on display is always carried out.

Council and Private Housing

(1) Council Housing

During 1970 sixteen Council houses were completed and in addition one house at Lerryn was converted into two flats.

The Council continued its policy of providing distress warning systems in old people's bungalows and such systems are now operating in four villages.

At the end of the year under review the Council owned 846 dwellings.

(2) Private Housing

During 1970 one hundred and forty-three houses were completed.

Holiday Accommodation

An ever increasing number of complaints is being received from people renting holiday cottages and chalets in the district. The complaints often take a similar pattern in that the bedding and floors are dirty and the accommodation is damp. Very seldom, on investigation, is the complaint confirmed and it seems that these people who do not find the accommodation or its position just what they expected turn to the public health department as a means of "having a go" at the owner.

Factories Act, 1961

It was thought that the downward trend of the number of factories registered in the district would continue into 1970, but this was not the case and the number on the register remained the same. It was also noted that the number of building operations (which are technically factories within the meaning of the Act) recovered from the downward trend and showed a slight increase. It seems, therefore, that whatever caused the minor slump last year is being overcome.

No complaints regarding factory conditions have been received from employees and the conditions generally existing in factories in this district are good. The minor offences which are found during our general inspections are usually speedily rectified.

Outworkers employed in the district are very small in number and those that are employed work for the clothing industry. Inspections are carried out of the premises in which this work is done when notice is received from their employers.

Offices, Shops and Railways Premises Act, 1963

The number of premises registered under the provisions of the Act have stayed static over the year. However, from time to time we get a change of occupier in the various premises and the number of persons employed have been reduced both for males and females. Again, I must point out that in a district of this nature where most of the premises are of the seasonal type the ebb and flow of staff and to some extent the change in the types of business can be expected.

The conditions generally existing in the registered premises are as follows:-

Cleanliness (Section 4)

Again I am pleased to report that the standard of cleanliness has been found to be generally good. We have on the odd occasion been obliged to re-visit premises shortly after giving verbal notice for minor infringements of cleanliness especially in the periods when the staff are very busy.

Overcrowding (Section 5)

No complaints from anyone were made to the department regarding any overcrowding in registered premises and neither were any found during inspection visits.

Temperature (6) Ventilation (Section 7)

Heating and ventilation again continues to be satisfactory in the registered premises in the district. No complaints were made to the department and every person interviewed on the inspections were satisfied with the existing arrangements. Thermometers were checked and in no case were conditions found that they were below the statutory minimum.

Lighting (Section 8)

We continue to test for illumination periodically with very few failures. However, it was rather interesting to find that in an electricity showroom, which is also used for office purposes, the illumination on the desk top was rather poor even though there were seventeen lights in the vicinity, but with some minor adjustments this was soon rectified.

Sanitary Conveniences (Section 9) and Washing Facilities (Section 10)

Most premises do have their own W.C. and washing facilities, however, in some of the smaller establishments where it is not practicable to provide their own arrangements it is necessary that some facilities do have to be shared.

Offices, Shops and Railways Premises Act, 1963 (Continued)

Floors and Passages and Stairs (Section 16)

We still seem to be troubled by employers placing objects and equipment on stairways, this is due partly to the fact that some people do not seem to think about safety first and it is easier to place things on steps because they do not have to bend to put them on the floor. We have found that articles for sale have been placed on landings for display purposes. When staff or owners are given verbal notice these obstructions are removed. Again, the change of staff is largely the cause of the repetitions of all these bad habits.

Dangerous Machines (Sections 17, 18 and 19)

No trouble has been experienced with the few dangerous machines which are situated in the district. I think most people appreciate that these machines are dangerous articles and must not be taken for granted. Most dangerous machines in this district fall in the bacon cutting category.

First Aid (Section 24)

First aid equipment is provided at old establishments. However, from time to time we have had to see that the boxes have been brought to light after lying dormant since the last visit and on one or two occasions we have had to ask for replacements of some of the equipment.

Abstract of the Act

All premises do have the OSR9 or OSR9B, but again these sometimes are lost or misplaced occasionally and therefore have to be replaced from time to time. It is heartening to know that most occupiers know what is being referred to when asked for the Abstract of the Act or the Blue Book! I suppose it means that they have seen it at sometime and maybe have read it.

Accidents

I am pleased to say no accidents were reported and no information regarding the occurrence of any accidents were reported to me during the year. Occupiers are regularly reminded about their duties under the Act, not only with respect to lighting, seating, heating, etc., but with regard to any accidents which may occur. They are also reminded that prevention is better than cure.

In a district of this nature where the turnover of staff is very rapid during the Summer and holiday season and where most of the premises are closed out of season, it is very difficult to educate owners and occupiers about the pitfalls which could overtake them under the provision of the Act. It is impossible to keep a track on every person who may spend a time working in one of our registered premises and for this reason not everyone working in them is aware of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act. However, as far as is humanly possible we do our best to ensure that they know something of this legislation which is there to protect the conditions under which they work.

The following items were attended to during 1970:-

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Item</u>
4	New water closets
1	New wash hand basins
1	Hot water supplies
5	Decorations

THE OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

TABLE "A"

Registrations and General Inspections

<u>Class of Premises</u>	<u>Number of Premises registered during the year</u>	<u>Total number of registered premises at end of year</u>	<u>Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year</u>
Offices	0	9	9
Retail Shops	0	42	42
Wholesale shops, warehouses	0	1	1
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	0	32	32
Fuel storage depots	0	2	2

TABLE "B"

Number of visits of all kinds by Inspectors to Registered Premises

141

TABLE "C"

Analysis of persons employed in Registered Premises by Workplace

<u>Class of Workplace</u>	<u>No. of persons employed</u>
Offices	28
Retail Shops	82
Wholesale departments, warehouses	6
Catering establishments open to the public	109
Canteens	0
Fuel Storage Depots	5
	<hr/>
Total	230
Total Males	61
Total Females	181

TABLE "D"

Exemptions

Nil

Prosecutions

Nil

TABLE "F"

Inspectors

Number of Inspectors appointed under Section 52(1) or (5) of the Act	3
Number of other staff employed for most of their time on work in connection with the Act	Nil

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

PART 1 OF THE ACT

- 1 - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

		Number of		
<u>Premises</u>	<u>No. on Register</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Written Notices</u>	<u>Occupiers prosecuted</u>
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	26	30	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	54	45	1	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority* (excluding outworkers' premises)	92	150	Nil	Nil
Total	172	225	1	Nil

I To prevent any differences between the lists kept respectively by the Local Authorities and H.M. Inspectors of Factories of the numbers of factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 of the Factories Act, 1961, are enforced by Local Authorities, it is requested that Local Authorities should compare their lists of factories with the lists kept by H.M. Inspectors of Factories.

* i.e. Electrical Stations (Section 123(1)), Institutions (Section 124), sites of Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction (Section 127), Slaughterhouses (Section 175 (1) (d) and (e)), and Railway Running Sheds (Section 175 (2) and (10)).

- 2 - Cases in which DEFECTS were found.
 (If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions, they are reckoned as two, three or more "cases").

Particulars (1)	Number of Cases in which Defects were found				Number of cases in which pros- ecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To H. M. Inspector (4)	By H. M. Inspector (5)	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	2	2	-	-	-
Over crowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	4	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	3	3	-	-	-
Total	10	10	-	-	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork (Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of work (1)	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of outworkers in August list required by Section 133(1)(c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwhole- some premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
Wearing Apparel. Making, etc., cleaning and washing	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

APPENDIX 1.PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH - ALL AGES - 1970

DISEASE	ST. GERMANS R.D.	LISKEARD R.D.	SALTASH M.B.	TORPOINT U.D.	LISKEARD M.B.	LOOE U.D.	HEALTH AREA NO. 7.
Heart disease	92	84	39	25	46	23	309
Cancer (all sites)	41	43	22	18	14	17	155
Stroke	30	22	9	13	26	8	108
Respiratory disease	23	19	17	2	8	4	73
Circulatory disease	14	4	3	-	3	6	30
Digestive disease	5	3	2	1	1	1	13
Accidents	3	5	1	-	-	4	13
Genito-urinary disease	7	2	1	1	-	1	12

APPENDIX 2.TYPES OF HEART DISEASE AND CANCER CAUSING DEATH - 1970

TYPE OF DISEASE	ST. GERMANS R.D.	LISKEARD R.D.	SALTASH M.B.	TORPOINT U.D.	LISKEARD M.B.	LOOE U.D.	HEALTH AREA NO. 7.
Ischaemic heart disease	75	72	31	18	42	15	253
Hypertensive disease	4	2	-	1	1	-	8
Chronic rheumatic heart disease.	3	1	-	-	1	1	6
Other heart disease	10	9	8	6	2	7	42
Cancer of intestine	9	4	3	4	2	1	23
Cancer of lung/bronchus	4	7	1	3	1	6	22
Cancer of stomach	4	3	5	3	2	2	19
Cancer of breast	2	4	6	3	-	1	16
Cancer of uterus	2	3	2	3	1	1	12
Other cancers	20	22	5	2	8	6	63

APPENDIX 3.DEATHS BY AGE GROUPS - 1970

DISTRICT	0 - 4 YEARS	5 - 14 YEARS	15 - 44 YEARS	45 - 64 YEARS	65 - 74 YEARS	75 YEARS AND OVER	ALL AGES
ST. GERMANS R.D.	5	-	6	46	70	110	237
LISKEARD R.D.	3	1	5	47	50	86	192
SALTASH M.B.	3	-	2	21	29	48	103
TORPOINT U.D.	-	-	2	13	19	28	62
LISKEARD M.B.	2	-	1	14	21	64	102
LOOE U.D.	1	-	2	14	24	31	72
HEALTH AREA NO. 7.	14	1	18	155	213	367	768

APPENDIX 4.TUBERCULOSISNEW CASES IN NO. 7 HEALTH AREA - 1970

<u>AGE GROUPS</u>	<u>MALES</u>	<u>FEMALES</u>	<u>PERSONS</u>
0 - 4 years	-	-	-
5 - 14 years	-	-	-
15 - 24 years	-	1	1
25 - 44 years	1	1	2
45 - 64 years	-	1	1
65 years and over	3	1	4
	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>8</u>

	<u>MALES</u>	<u>FEMALES</u>	<u>PERSONS</u>
New case rate per 1,000 of population.	0.075	0.075	0.150

CASE RATES AND MORTALITY RATES IN COUNTY DISTRICTS IN HEALTH AREA NO. 7 - 1970

<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>NEW CASES</u>	<u>ALL KNOWN CASES</u>	<u>DEATHS</u>
ST. GERMAN'S R.D.	0.13	1.44	-
LISKEARD R.D.	0.07	1.75	-
SALTASH M.B.	0.32	2.48	-
TORPOINT U.D.	0.32	1.44	0.16
LISKEARD M.B.	-	3.67	-
LOOE U.D.	-	2.23	-
HEALTH AREA NO.7	0.15	1.92	0.02
CORNWALL COUNTY	0.13	2.31	0.04

APPENDIX 5.CANCER OF THE LUNG AND BRONCHUSDEATHS BY AGE GROUPS - 1970.

<u>AGE GROUP</u>	<u>MALES</u>	<u>FEMALES</u>	<u>PERSONS</u>
45 - 54 years	1	-	1
55 - 64 years	3	-	3
65 - 74 years	14	2	16
75 and over	1	1	2
	<u>19</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>22</u>

DEATH RATE PER 1,000 OF POPULATION - 1970

	<u>MALES</u>	<u>FEMALES</u>	<u>PERSONS</u>
HEALTH AREA NO.7	0.356	0.056	0.412
CORNWALL COUNTY	0.360	0.123	0.483
ENGLAND AND WALES	0.508	0.109	0.617

